Kochunni Menon's bungalow and go westward at the next turning to the Padiyath corner are not very narrow?

President.—It is a matter of opinion. You know the roads and he knows the roads, both of you might form your opinion on that.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—May I know whether the buses have to pass two curves from Mr. V. K. Kochunni Menon's bungalow's front side to reach the Padiyath stand and that along these two narrow roads?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—There are two curves to be passed.

President.—There will be always danger if care is not taken, and if care is taken there will be less danger. If the road is wide the chances of accidents will be minimised.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to answer whether the Padiyath corner is a crowded one and where the buses themselves are parked on the public roads?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—We are thinking of consulting the Chairman of the Municipality. It is under contemplation to request the Chairman of the Municipality to see whether better arrangements can be made for parking these buses.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—With reference to question (4), may I know what was the information that the Government gleaned?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—Attempts were made to take statements from the passengers who were at the time in the bus, and from their statements it will be found that it was going at over-speed.

Reserved teak plantation area in Malayattur.

556. Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(1) whether any representation was made by the inhabitants of Malayattur that the reserved teak plantation area should be disafforested and the place made available for habitation and other purposes to the people of the locality;

(2) was the present Diwan requested by the people to view the locality in question and did he comply with the said request; if so, when;

(3) has the Government taken any definite action in the matter of the representation made by the people; if so, what is the result of the said action;

(4) has any reply been given by the Government to the representation referred to in sub-division (1); if so, what is the reply; if no reply has been given, will the Government be pleased to say why the matter is delayed;

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(5) has the Government called for any report or opinion in the said matter from the Diwan Peishkar and the Conservator of Forests ; will the Government be pleased to state whether they are in favour of granting the request made by the people ?

Mr. K. Govinda Menon.—(1) Yes.

(2) Yes. He was not actually in the plantation, but had a view of it from a place near the Malayattur Church. This was on the 23rd of May 1927.

3) Yes. The question of excluding the teak plantation from the Reserve Forest was dropped.

(4) No. The representation contained other requests also which are under consideration.

(5) Yes ; the Conservator of Forests was not in favour as the area is not suited for food-crop cultivation.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—With reference to the answer to sub-division (5), may I know what the opinion of the Diwan Peishkar was with regard to this question of disafforestation ?

Mr. K. Govinda Menon.—I do not know.

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—I want notice. It is not tabled to be answered by me.

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—That is the reply to the question that the Conservator has submitted. The answer is 'Yes; the Conservator of Forests was not in favour as the area is not suited for food-crop cultivation.' So the Conservator is not in favour of granting the request. There is no specific report with regard to this matter from the Diwan Peishkar.

President.—Was he asked to report ?

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—He was not asked to report specially. He too has supplied the same answer. He was in favour of the disafforestation.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—Am I to understand that the Diwan Peishkar was of opinion that the soil three was suited for food-crop cultivation but that the opinion of the Conservator was otherwise ?

President.—The Conservator was not in favour of the exclusion.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—Whatever may be the opinion of the Conservator, so far as the suitability of the soil for food-crop cultivation, so far as the question of habitation purposes is concerned, will the Government be pleased to disafforest the area and make it available for the people for purposes of habitation ?

President.—The opinion of the Diwan Peishkar is that the area may be made available for habitation and other purposes. But the Conservator was not in favour as the area was not

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suited for cultivation. So I think, if the timber is removed and the area disafforested, this will be useful for habitation.

Mr. K. Govinda Menon.—I think the teak that is grown there is of excellent quality. It is a young plantation, 30 or 40 years old, and the timber there is not fit to be cut and removed now. I also find from the records that the plantation was started there as a protection from damages from floods. During the recent floods the plantation served a good purpose. If the plantation was not there, the floods would have made great havoc.

557. Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—Will the Government be pleased to say:—

(a) whether they have any idea of auctioning any poramboke area in Malayattur ;

(b) what, if any, is the area proposed to be sold in public auction ;

(c) will the Government be pleased to inform whether they have received any representation from the inhabitants of the locality that the said area may be parcelled out into small plots and given to the people of the place on a reasonble land value being realised from them ;

(d) is the Government aware that auctioning the area is likely to bring in outside competition not only from other places in Cochin but even from the neighbouring places of Travancore ;

(e) does the Government propose to make the area available to the inhabitants of the place as far as possible ; if so, what means do they propose to achieve the result ?

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—(a) Yes. A portion of the forest exclusion in Malayattur is proposed to be sold in auction.

(b) 152·97 acres.

(c) A representation has been received from the local Panchayat.

(d) Yes.

(e) The matter is under consideration.

Encumbered lands in Chittur.

558. Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) the number of encumbered lands in Chittur and the percentage of such lands in comparison with the unencumbered ;

(b) the average rate of interest on such encumbrance ?

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—(a) and (b). The Government regret that the information asked for cannot be gathered

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